

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



East and north (façade) elevations

Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Wendy Frontiero and Pamela Hartford
Organization: Beverly Historic District Commission
Date (month / year): September 2016

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
22-266	Marble-head N		BEV.1121

Town/City: Beverly

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Beverly Cove

Address: 167 Hale Street

Historic Name: Church in the Cove

Uses: Present: church

Original: church

Date of Construction: 1956

Source: building permit, Dept of Public Safety records, cornerstone

Style/Form: contemporary

Architect/Builder: architect unknown;
Clemenzi Construction Co.

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: brick and clapboards with wood trim

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Garage; stone wall

Major Alterations (with dates):
Rear additions (1962 and 1965)

Condition: good to excellent

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.8 acres

Setting: Located on main thoroughfare of Hale Street (Route 27), connecting downtown Beverly with Beverly Farms and Manchester. Densely built residential neighborhood, with houses from late 18th through mid 20th century along Hale Street, and mostly mid to late 20th century buildings south of Hale Street.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BEVERLY

167 HALE STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

BEV.1121

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The Church in the Cove occupies a large, mostly flat site on a prominent corner at Hale and East Corning streets. The building is positioned approximately in the center of its trapezoidal lot, oriented roughly north/south. (For convenience of terminology, the building is assumed to face north, although it more accurately faces northwest.) A granite rubble wall with a crenellated top lines Hale Street, with stocky posts framing the driveway opening on Hale Street. The driveway continues straight back for most of the depth of the site, connecting to a large paved parking lot that covers nearly all of the rear setback of the property. A rail and post fence defines the East Corning Street property line. The site consists of the church building and an outbuilding that pre-dates the church. Mature deciduous and evergreen trees are scattered throughout the site, which is maintained chiefly in lawn.

The Church in the Cove is an irregularly-shaped array of multiple one-story, gabled volumes. Each component rises from a concrete foundation to a pitched roof with deep overhanging eaves and no gable returns. The original church building appears to be a T-shaped structure facing Hale Street, clad principally with brick in a Common bond pattern, with a Flemish bond course every sixth row, soldier course lintels at the doors and windows, and brick window sills. An addition sheathed in artificial siding extends toward the back, terminating in a large perpendicular block that is again clad in brick, although this time in a plain running bond.

Measuring 28 feet wide by approximately 43 feet deep, the main (sanctuary) wing of the Church presents a front gable towards Hale Street, with a three bay façade containing two blank end bays clad in wood. Its slightly projecting center pavilion is clad in brick, taller than the main roof, and surmounted by a small wood cupola with a plain wood base, paired louvers above, and a hip roof. The brick pavilion has a blank face towards Hale Street, which is ornamented with a tall, slender, abstracted wood cross; its narrow side walls each contain vertical glazed panels. The side elevations of the front wing are five bays long, featuring paired casement or sliding windows in most openings, and a single-leaf door accessed by concrete steps in the outer bay of the east wall. The symmetrical side wings at the rear of the main building each contain two widely spaced windows; the west wing has a small exterior brick chimney. A double leaf door accessed by concrete steps and a concrete ramp faces north on the eastern wing.

Extending southward from the T-shaped main block is a short, wide ell sheathed in artificial siding and trim; it contains three bays of paired 1/1 windows. The perpendicular rear block (containing the Fellowship Hall) is large, measuring 32 feet wide by 75 feet long. Set low to the ground, it contains six bays on its south elevation, with an offset entrance in the penultimate bay on the east end. Its single-leaf door is sheltered by a gabled portico with plain square posts. The gable end facing East Corning Street has a narrow center bay clad in wood or artificial siding that rises to the gable peak and contains a plain, single leaf door at the base.

A large outbuilding stands roughly at the center of the eastern edge of the property. Facing west, the building rises one story to a steeply pitched front gable without gable returns; a brick chimney rises from the center of the ridge. The garage is clad in artificial siding and trim. Its north elevation contains three symmetrical, 2/2 windows. The asymmetrical west façade has a single leaf pedestrian door near the center and a garage door on its southern end.

The Church in the Cove is a modest, well-crafted example of mid-20th century ecclesiastical design in Beverly. It is notable for its large site, pleasing proportions and massing, combination of materials, and interesting tower motif on the Hale Street façade, and for the stone perimeter wall and garage that survive from the property's previous life as a residential estate.

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Now affiliated with the Congregational Church, the Church in the Cove has been known variously through its history as the First Federated Church and Church in the Cove. It first appears in the city directories in 1953-54, when it was located at Washington Street on the corner of Brown Street. Rev. Marvin R. Green was the minister in that year. (One of the two corner lots at this intersection is occupied by a large Italianate house, the other by the former Washington Street Congregational Church.) By 1955, the Church had acquired the property at 167 Hale Street, formerly the estate of the old and locally prominent Woodbury family. Rev. Stephen W. Turrell was minister of the church in 1960; he was succeeded by 1965 by Rev. T. Thomas Boates, Jr.

The estate of Thomas Woodbury is shown as owner of the property in 1897; Rufus H. Woodbury, shoe manufacturer, lived here in 1900 with his wife and four of their children. Rufus (1843-1905) was a co-founder, in 1869, of the Woodbury Shoe Company, one of Beverly's largest and best-known shoe manufacturers, with his brothers Thomas and Hezekiah. (The company operated a shop on this property from 1872-77.) Rufus's widow Emily F. (1846-1916) remained here in 1910, followed by their son, Rufus Jr. (1875-1936), who served as treasurer of the Woodbury Shoe Co., beginning around 1920. By 1930 and through 1953-54, the property at 167 Hale Street served as a summer residence for the Woodbury family—including Rufus and his unmarried sisters, Nettie (1871-1952) and Elsie (1881-1970). In 1919, an existing outbuilding was altered to create the extant garage. It is likely that the stone wall along Hale Street and the mature tree plantings on the site also date to the Woodburys' residency.

The First Federated Church of Beverly erected a new building on the site in 1956, soon after acquiring the property. Department of Public Safety records show that the building plans were by the contractor, Clemenzi Construction Co. (The congregation may initially have occupied the Woodbury house; records at the Beverly Historical Society note a fire at the church in May 1956. Further research is recommended.) Substantial additions were made in 1962 and 1965, presumably the middle ell (now offices) and the perpendicular rear block (Fellowship Hall).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Beverly city directories, 1910 – 1965.

Beverly Historical Society, Archives. Folder on Beverly Fire Department

City of Beverly, Building Inspector's Office. Building permit records.

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Hepler, Margaret. *Beverly; Historic Cultural Resources Survey, 1992-93; Final Report*. June 1993.

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Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Reconnaissance Survey Town Report: Beverly*. 1986.

McDermott, Charles H. *A History of the Shoe and Leather Industries of the United States, Vol 2*. Boston: J. W. Denehy & Co., 1920.

Personal communication with Paula, Martorelli, office administrator of Church in the Cove, 17 May 2016.

U.S. Federal Census, 1900, 1910, 1920.

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



Garage



Hale Street wall